

THE PANHANDLE OF TEXAS.

"It Offers Greater Opportunities Today Than Any Other Place on American Continent" Says Prominent Newspaperman.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 16th.—(Special) J. B. Dickerson, editor of The Southwestern News Syndicate, and one of the best known newspaper and magazine writers in the Southwest, was shown an item which appeared in The Carthage Press under date of Dec. 5th. While he did not care to criticize the author of the erroneous and slanderous statement published, said it was a pity that such misleading stories were given publicity. He said an investigation by an impartial judge would disprove many of the statements, and if Chas. H. Smith owns land in Jasper county, Missouri he desires to sell, he should give this as a reason for "knocking" against the Panhandle.

After reading the Smith "Special correspondence to the Press" dated Amarillo, Texas, Nov. 30th, Mr. Dickerson says:

"Practically every positive statement made by Mr. Smith can be disproved by men who neither have lands for sale in the Panhandle or elsewhere, but men who only desire justice. I spent three months in the Panhandle not long ago in the interest of a syndicate of leading newspapers and magazines who wanted the truth and nothing but the truth about that country. I gathered data from every source, much of which was more or less unreliable, it is true, but any sane man can distinguish between the two when the facts are before him. In the first place Mr. Smith goes

out of his way to falsify against that country, when he says:

"Sixteen years ago this country had a bigger boom than that now on. Farm land ran up in price along the railroads. Far more settlers were drawn here then than now. Everything bloomed as the rose. Then came the great drought. It lasted nearly six years. Farmers lost nearly everything they had. Many walked out while on every road were covered wagons drawn by lean horses, taking the once prosperous families back to 'God's Country.'" Quoting further he says.

"But the whole Panhandle country is something different when it fails to rain. Then all crops fail, the grass dries up, cattle perish, fruit trees wither, and die and gloom and despair is everywhere extant throughout the region."

Mr. Dickerson further states: "To reply to Mr. Smith in detail would require more space than the average newspaper could spare, but enough can be said that would convince any fair minded man he is either a chronic 'Kicker' or else has an ulterior motive in 'Knocking' on the fairest land in the South, The Texas Panhandle."

"The Government weather bureau at Amarillo was established nearly 15 years ago, and since that time the average annual rainfall has been about 24 inches. Ten years ago, or in 1897, it was 19.16, the lowest any year since the station was established. Mr. Smith evidently reckoned without his host when he bewailed and mooned over the terrible fate of the alleged drought of six years ago which never came. Six

years ago, according to the official report in Amarillo, the rainfall was 23 1-2 inches, and strange to relate, it came during the growing, or crop season. It rained 9 inches in May, 2 in June, 1 1-2 in July, 2 1-2 inches in August, and nearly one inch in Sept. Certainly this could not have been the 'terrible drought' Mr. Smith speaks of?

"This erudite gentleman with the small 'Hammer' also mentions 'Dry river beds' in the Panhandle, and attempts to decry the fate of 'Suckers' who might be lured into that country by 'Land Grifters' and others, Etc. The truth is that only one stream crosses the great Plains country, the Canadian river, and that runs across the extreme Northern edge of what is known as the Plains proper. His reference to the Prairie Dog Fork of Red River, the Palo Duro Canyon, is a slander on the people of the Panhandle and shows how totally ignorant he is on the subject he attempts to deal with. The Palo Duro Canyon will, ere long, become a National Park and Game Preserve. It is the most wonderful gorge on the American continent, and will become a famous rendezvous for scientists and men who seek rare natural treasure in art and the handiwork of God. It contains numerous never failing springs and through its center runs a beautiful clear stream of water. It has not been dry since 1866, according to Capt. Chas. Goodnight, the oldest settler along that romantic wonderland."

"Mr. Smith asks: What do you want to leave Jasper County for? You will appreciate your blessings there, perhaps, if you

get where they are denied you, and that is the ONLY reason I would suggest for you to try a change. Be satisfied and you'll be happy."

Now, dear reader, what do you think of a man who would lambast a country, pick every flaw imaginable, wilfully misrepresent actual conditions, and then wind up a long, rambling description by saying: "And this is the ONLY reason I would suggest for you to try a change. Be satisfied and you'll be happy." Would not this put your cork a-bobbing? Mr. Smith is one of those weaklings who get away from home and when "Homesickness" comes over him, begins to dish out free advice by the hand full, let it be right or wrong, it makes no difference.

"Personally I am not interested in the Panhandle country, but I am willing to go on record that it offers greater opportunities today for the man with ordinary means and is not afraid to work, of any place on the American Continent. Farm lands in the Plains can be bought today at from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per acre, on easy terms, and where else on earth can one beat this? The Panhandle country is not a land of 'Milk and Honey,' as many might suppose, but it is a land of great opportunities and possibilities already partially developed. The country is not an arid waste, with dry river beds and frequent disastrous droughts and 'Booms that catch suckers,' as Mr. Smith would have one believe. This 'Knocker' is only one of those misguided, misinformed and malicious homesick farmers who hopes to farm the farmer rather than buckle down to real

home-making, and looks through smoked glasses. His 'Hammer' is entirely too light to do much harm, however."

The Wisdom of Dealing at Home.

A well known Chicago mail order house has been indicted at Des Moines, Iowa, on three counts charging fraud by the use of the United States mail. It is charged that the firm sold paint which it represented to contain white lead, which was false; that it sold a ring represented to contain four pearls and four sapphires, which was false; that it sold another ring represented to contain twelve pearls and two rubies, which was false.

The firm may be convicted and required to pay a fine, but the dupes who bought the spurious goods still have the bag to hold. They have parted with their money and can never get it back. But the mail order house, though it may have to pay a fine and costs, will recoup itself with more chalk paint and colored glass stones. The moral is to buy goods at home and thus refuse to help these Chicago corner men pay fines and costs. It is one of the second seven wonders why people will send cash in advance to these mail order houses and risk being swindled when they can buy goods just as cheap at home and on credit besides. Goods purchased at home can be taken back if they prove defective or unsatisfactory, while the mail order stuff has to be kept, good or bad. Or if it could be sent back the purchaser would have to pay transportation charges both ways, which would be as much a losing game as

keeping it.

Leaving out all considerations of duty to patronize your neighbor first it is always a money making deal to buy at home. Prices on goods are governed very largely by quality, and cheap price means cheap quality. —Henrietta Independent.

A tower boomer gets off this: "Tell me not in mournful numbers, that the town is full of gloom, for the man's a crank that slumbers in these bustling days of boom. Life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is not its goal; every dollar that thou turnest helps to make the old town roll. But enjoyment and not sorrow is our destined end or way; if you have no money, borrow—buy a corner lot each day. Lives of great men all remind us we can win immortal fame. Let us leave the chumps behind us and we'll get there just the same."—Ex.

Up in the Panhandle country and throughout Central West Texas they are breaking the land with steam plows. That's meeting the intensive demands of development. Outside capital is the steam plow demanded by inside opportunities for enterprise and commerce. The one-mule power turning plow and the dime invested in the grouch are not heavy enough for the firing line in Texas today. We need the wonderful energy and power of the investment dollar. Progressive sentiment has retired the dime. Let Texas grow.—Fort Worth Star.

O. B. Cotton thoroughly understands cleaning and pressing. Let him do your work. 37.20

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THE COUNTRY of good crops, fine climate, plenty of water, moral, prosperous and happy people, great advantages, cheap and productive lands. Lands are cheaper now than they will ever be again.

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